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P 010252Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1145
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHMMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMHMHB/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0046
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3535
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5956
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1530
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2047
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3413
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000865

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q AFGHANISTAN - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Thursday morning papers front-paged former Miyagi Gov. Shiro Asano's intention to run in the Tokyo gubernatorial election in April to challenge incumbent Gov. Shintaro Ishihara.

[¶](#)1. "Suicide Bombing: Taliban Expanding Activities in Afghanistan" Kabul correspondent Masahiro Sato of the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote (3/1): "A suicide bombing in eastern Palwan province, Afghanistan, on February 27, an apparent attempt on the life of Vice President Cheney during his visit there, dealt a double blow to countries involved in the restoration of order and the reconstruction of that country. The incident not only showed that a suicide bomber could approach the heavily guarded entrance of the main US military base in Bagram, it also demonstrated that the Taliban are expanding the area in which they operate. The suicide bombing appears to have been an attack on the US and Britain, both of which are taking the lead in beefing up the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to cope with a possible intensification of fighting after the snow thaws in Afghanistan in the spring. Although reconstruction has been underway in Afghanistan for five years, the security situation appears likely to worsen."

DONOVAN